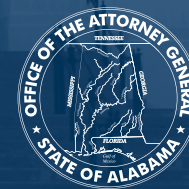


STATE OF ALABAMA

2016

STATE OF ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
ANNUAL REPORT





A MESSAGE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL LUTHER STRANGE



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As I approach the midpoint of my second term as Alabama's 49th Attorney General, I continue to be honored by the opportunity to serve the people of our great state. I am also proud of the successful efforts of the many talented lawyers, investigators and staff of the Attorney General's Office who work for you, ensuring that your interests as citizens of Alabama are protected.

During the previous year, the Attorney General's Office was involved in many significant events—from the [conviction and removal from office of the Speaker of the House for felony ethics violations](#), to the [impeachment of a sheriff for betraying his office and the public he had sworn to serve](#). The Attorney General's Office also played a role in shoring up the General Fund through our previous efforts to secure the State's historic \$1 billion BP-Deepwater Horizon economic damages settlement.

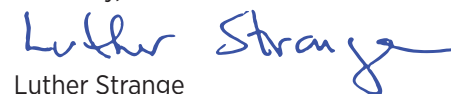
Our Consumer Interests Division worked with other states to hold Volkswagen accountable for misleading consumers about the pollution control abilities of its vehicles, with eligible Alabama

owners able to receive fair market value payment for their affected cars. Our [Medicaid Fraud Control Unit recovered nearly \\$17 million in Medicaid funds](#) meant to serve the most vulnerable in our state.

During 2016, my office hosted the annual Law Enforcement Summit bringing together officials from all over Alabama to share ideas on making our streets safer. I was also honored to travel across the state to present Safe School Awards to nearly a dozen schools.

The Attorney General's Office is one of the busiest and most far reaching in state government, and I am honored to be an advocate for both Alabama law enforcement and our citizens. I thank you for the opportunity to be your Attorney General.

Sincerely,


Luther Strange

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PUBLIC CORRUPTION

The Special Prosecutions Division (SPD) was formed in 2012 by Attorney General Luther Strange as part of the Office's ongoing commitment to fight public corruption. Since that time SPD investigators and prosecutors continue to investigate and prosecute crimes involving the breach of public trust by public officials and employees. The Division is comprised of attorneys, investigators and support staff who have many years of state and federal experience successfully prosecuting corruption and other complex criminal matters.

SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF IMPEACHED

In July, the Special Prosecutions Division of the Attorney General's Office successfully prosecuted the impeachment trial of Sumter County Sheriff Tyrone Clark before the Alabama Supreme Court, presenting evidence of 'willful neglect of duty and corruption in office' by Clark. Immediately upon completion of the trial, the Alabama Supreme Court removed Sheriff Clark from office.

"Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange said this was the first time in 44 years that a sheriff has been impeached. 'It's extraordinarily rare, but it's extraordinarily important because a violation of public trust by a law enforcement official is about the highest level of corruption I can imagine,' Strange said." Montgomery Advertiser, July 27, 2016



Attorney General Luther Strange, joined by Sumter County District Attorney Greg Griggers, speaks to the media on the Alabama Supreme Court steps following the impeachment trial of Sumter County Sheriff Tyrone Clark.

ELMORE COUNTY COMMISSIONER CONVICTED OF FELONY ETHICS VIOLATION

In December, the Special Prosecutions Division of the Attorney General's Office secured the conviction of former Elmore County Commissioner Joe Faulk for a felony ethics law violation. Faulk pleaded guilty in Elmore County Circuit Court to intentionally using his office for personal gain. During his time as commissioner he received more than \$63,000 for assisting a business in marketing contracts with county commissions across the state while failing to disclose his personal interest in the company.

"The facts are clear that this defendant abused his public trust by using his position as an Elmore County Commissioner for his own financial gain," said Attorney General Luther Strange.

www.ago.alabama.gov/News-949

STATE EMPLOYEES PLEAD GUILTY TO FELONY ETHICS AND FORGERY VIOLATIONS

In December, the Special Prosecutions Division of the Attorney General's Office announced felony guilty pleas of two employees of the Alabama Licensing Board for General Contractors for ethics violations. Nancy C. Saffo and Christy Easterling both pleaded guilty in Montgomery County Circuit Court to one felony count of use of official position for personal gain and one felony count of criminal possession of a forged instrument in the second degree. Easterling received approximately \$32,000 and Saffo received over \$60,000. The payments were made in cash and checks deposited into the defendants' personal bank accounts.

"Critical government functions must be performed by honest public servants free from graft and corruption," Strange said. 'Those who abuse the public's trust can expect to be held accountable.'" AL.com, December 14, 2016

www.ago.state.al.us/News-884

SPEAKER HUBBARD CORRUPTION CASE

In June, Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard was found guilty of 12 counts of corruption by a Lee County jury after a 12-day trial. He was convicted of voting for legislation with a conflict of interest, using his elected position for personal gain, lobbying members of the executive branch for a paying client as a legislator, and soliciting and receiving from principals four separate \$150,000 investments in a business he owned, all in violation of Alabama's ethics laws. As a result, he was immediately removed from office.

In July, former Speaker Hubbard was sentenced to a total of four years in prison and eight years of probation and ordered to pay a \$210,000 fine. Hubbard has since appealed his conviction. The public corruption case is the culmination of three years of work by the Attorney General's Special Prosecution Division and Acting Attorney General W. Van Davis.

"The jury made a statement tonight," Acting Attorney General W. Van Davis said at a press conference after the verdict Friday. Davis added that he felt the verdict vindicated his office's decision to prosecute Hubbard, especially in light of pretrial allegations of prosecutorial misconduct." Montgomery Advertiser, June 11, 2016

"Calling the sentencing 'a turning point in our state,' the attorney general, Luther Strange, said in a statement, 'No longer can elected officials expect to disregard our laws and not pay a penalty.'" New York Times, July 9, 2016

www.ago.state.al.us/News-851

www.ago.state.al.us/News-878



Acting Attorney General W. Van Davis speaks to the media following the conviction of former Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard. (photo) MacKenzie Bates/Alabama Public Radio

BP/TRANSOCEAN SETTLEMENT FUNDS ALREADY BENEFIT STATE

The work of the Alabama Attorney General’s Office in helping secure the historic BP/Deepwater Horizon settlement has already had a positive impact on the state’s budget.

In September, the Alabama Legislature authorized the issuance of bonds, guaranteed by future BP/Deepwater Horizon settlement payments to the State, to cover budget shortfalls, repay State debts, and improve roads in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

In 2015, Attorney General Strange announced a landmark settlement in which BP agreed to pay the state \$1 billion over 18 years for economic damages suffered by Alabama taxpayers from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and a separate settlement in which TRANSOCEAN agreed to pay \$20 million to Alabama’s General Fund—the largest amount the company paid to any state.

Attorney General Strange was the court-appointed coordinating counsel for all five Gulf states in the litigation against BP and its co-defendants. The agreement capped five years of litigation by the Attorney General’s Office during which its staff attorneys logged more than 20,000 hours to recoup state revenue losses brought about by the unprecedented environmental disaster.

By largely relying upon staff attorneys to pursue Alabama’s damages case, the Attorney General’s Office prevented the State from forfeiting approximately \$140 million in settlement funds to private attorney contingency fees. The Attorney General’s Office used the \$10 million in attorney fees it received from BP— an amount on top of the \$1 billion BP agreed to pay the State—to partially fund the Office’s 2016 operations.

Under the terms of the Legislature’s enactment, the State of Alabama will issue some \$620 million in bonds backed by the BP settlement payments. Much of this money will be used to repay the Alabama Trust Fund for transfers used to shore up the General Fund in previous years. The remaining funds backed by the settlement will go to the Alabama Medicaid Agency and to coastal road improvement projects in Baldwin and Mobile counties.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS CONTINUE POSITIVE IMPACT ON STATE BUDGET

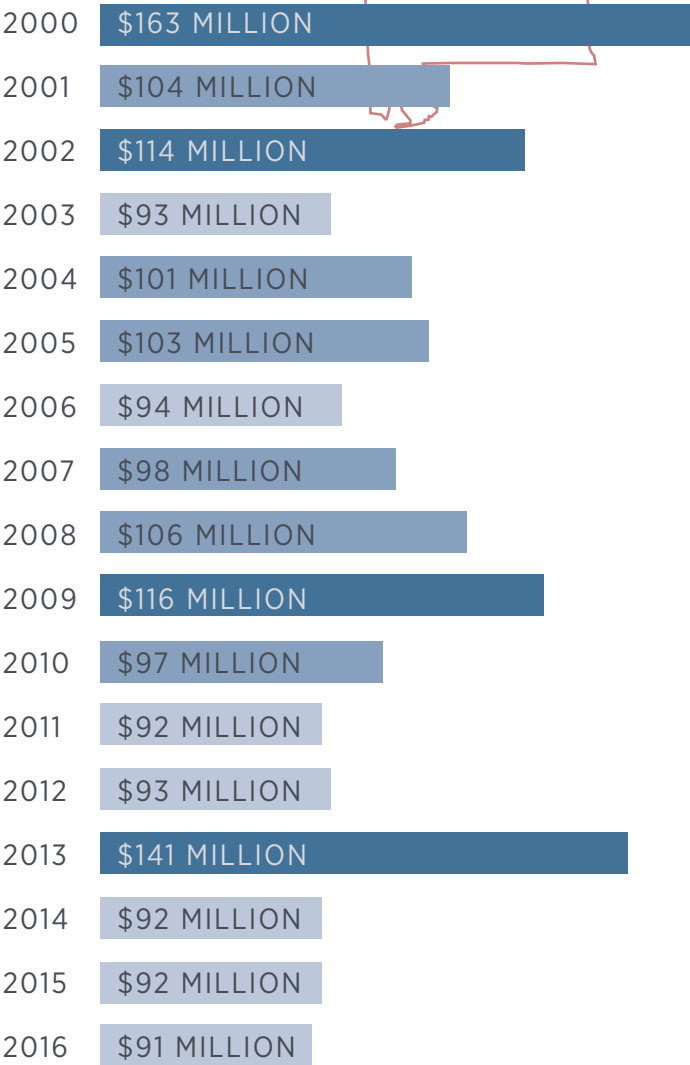
\$1.8 BILLION AND COUNTING

The recent BP/TRANSOCEAN settlement is not the only agreement secured by the Alabama Attorney General’s Office which has benefitted the state budget. An even larger civil settlement joined by the Attorney General’s Office 17 years ago has resulted in almost \$1.8 billion in payments to the State of Alabama.

In 1999, Alabama joined attorneys general nationwide in a \$200 billion, national agreement between the States and the major tobacco companies to settle lawsuits over smoking-related health care costs. This remains the largest civil settlement ever reached. Since 2000, Alabama has received annual payments averaging \$110 million which have been used in support of health care programs for children and seniors as well as economic development programs.

In 2012, following a ten-year dispute between the tobacco companies regarding payments, Alabama joined a new multi-state agreement with the tobacco companies to ensure the stability of these payments in perpetuity.

ANNUAL TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA





SOLICITOR GENERAL PROTECTING THE RULE OF LAW

The Solicitor General oversees the Attorney General's appeals to the Supreme Court of the United States, the Federal Courts of Appeal, the Alabama Supreme Court, and other appellate courts. Working with the Constitutional Defense Section, the Solicitor General fights to uphold Alabama law and limit federal overreach.

EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN BLOCKED

On February 9, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court stayed the Obama administration from enforcing its overreaching Clean Power Plan while Alabama and 24 other states continue to challenge the legality of the EPA rule in federal court. The Clean Power Plan would increase the average annual Alabama household energy bills by more than \$800 in 2020.

"This is a tremendous victory not only for the rule of law, but also for the people of Alabama who stand to pay higher electric bills should the unprecedented and illegal EPA rule be enacted," said Attorney General Strange.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-772

EPA WATERS OF THE U.S. RULE BLOCKED

On February 22, 2016, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to hear the nationwide challenge of the EPA's controversial 'Waters of the U.S.' (WOTUS) rule, keeping the nationwide stay in place. The Waters of the U.S. rule is an unprecedented effort to expand the EPA's regulatory authority at the expense of states' legal rights and the rights of property owners. In September, Alabama and 17 other states petitioned the court for a nationwide stay of the EPA rule, which was subsequently granted by the court on October 9, 2015.

"Today's decision by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to hear challenges to the WOTUS rule is a positive development for Alabama and the other states seeking to overturn the overly broad EPA rule," said Attorney General Strange. *"The Court's action ensures the stay will remain in place as it hears challenges to the rule."*

www.ago.state.al.us/News-779

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AMNESTY BLOCKED

On June 23, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court reached a tie (4-4) vote on the fate of President Obama's Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA), or executive amnesty program, challenged by Alabama and 25 other states. President Obama has no legal authority to unilaterally grant amnesty to nearly five million undocumented aliens without the consent of Congress or the review of the states. The Supreme Court's tie vote upheld the lower court ruling from November 15, 2015, blocking executive amnesty.

"This is a strong victory for the Constitution, the rule of law and for the conservative Attorneys General who took this important case all the way to the highest court in the land and prevailed," said Attorney General Strange.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-862

PERSUADER RULE BLOCKED

On June 27, 2016, a Texas federal court blocked the implementation of the Obama administration's proposed Persuader Advice Exemption Rule which would target small business's right to confidential conversations with counsel. On February 5, Alabama led a coalition of 13 states opposing the Obama administration's proposed Persuader Rule that would force small businesses to disclose communications with outside counsel in labor relations matters. On March 10, Alabama was also one of ten states that joined in a federal lawsuit opposing the rule.

"Once again the Obama administration has been prevented from crossing the line into illegal activity," said Attorney General Strange. *"The right of small business and frankly anyone to have confidential conversations with an attorney is a basic right that cannot be infringed. Today's ruling sends a clear message to Obama bureaucrats that they cannot change the law to intimidate Americans."*

www.ago.state.al.us/News-864

FEDERAL RESTROOM AND LOCKER ROOM MANDATE BLOCKED

On August 21, 2016, a Texas federal court granted our 13-state motion for nationwide injunction against a federal mandate that prohibited local schools from maintaining sex-segregated restrooms and locker rooms. Restrooms and locker rooms in K-12 schools should be controlled by parents, teachers and principals—not federal bureaucrats imposing a one-size-fits-all policy from Washington.

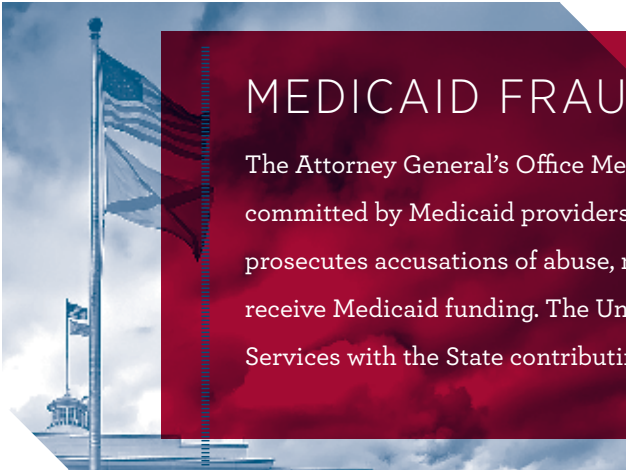
"The court's order allows local schools to resolve issues pertaining to transgendered students without fear of litigation from the Department of Justice or the loss of funding from the Department of Education," said Attorney General Strange.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-905

ENFORCING ALABAMA'S GUN LAWS

Under Ala. Code § 13A-11-61.3, the Attorney General investigates formal complaints about violations of Alabama's firearms law by government entities. The statute also empowers him to compel compliance by filing suit. During 2016, over 45 complaints were investigated by the Attorney General's Office resulting in over 60 changes to "no-firearms" signs in public places.

www.ago.alabama.gov/Page-Firearms-Alabama-Public-Statements-13A-11-61-3



MEDICAID FRAUD CONTROL UNIT

The Attorney General’s Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes allegations of fraud committed by Medicaid providers against the Alabama Medicaid Program. Additionally, the Unit investigates and prosecutes accusations of abuse, neglect and the financial exploitation of residents in long-term care facilities that receive Medicaid funding. The Unit receives 75 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with the State contributing the remaining 25 percent in matching funds.

KEY CASE

>> Catrina R. Copeland, the owner of The Counseling Place, a Dothan company that contracted with the Medicaid Agency to provide counseling services to at-risk youth, and Stephanie Govan, who was employed by Copeland as a therapist, were arrested and charged on June 21 by Agents of the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Inspector General for allegedly defrauding the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

“Those who choose to commit health care fraud do so at the expense of the most vulnerable of our society who are dependent upon these programs,” said Attorney General Strange. ‘Protecting taxpayer resources is a high priority of my office and I am pleased to join U.S. Attorney George Beck in targeting costly Medicaid fraud.’” AL.com, June 22, 2016

www.ago.alabama.gov/News-860

>> Clarence George, Kimberly Hurst, Deangela Marshall, Derrick McDaniel, Larry Reese, Shakeira Reese and Carrie Jo Walker pleaded guilty this summer for their role in a theft ring that victimized eight residents of Oaks on Parkwood Assisted Living Facility in Bessemer, who lost more than \$20,000. Other individuals allegedly involved have been charged and the case is continuing.

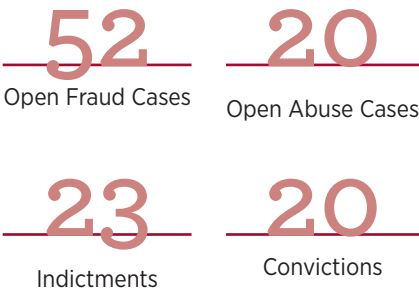
“I commend my Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for its skillful handling of this important matter, and thank the Noland Health Services for its diligence in discovering these crimes,” said Attorney General Strange.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-811

www.ago.state.al.us/News-881

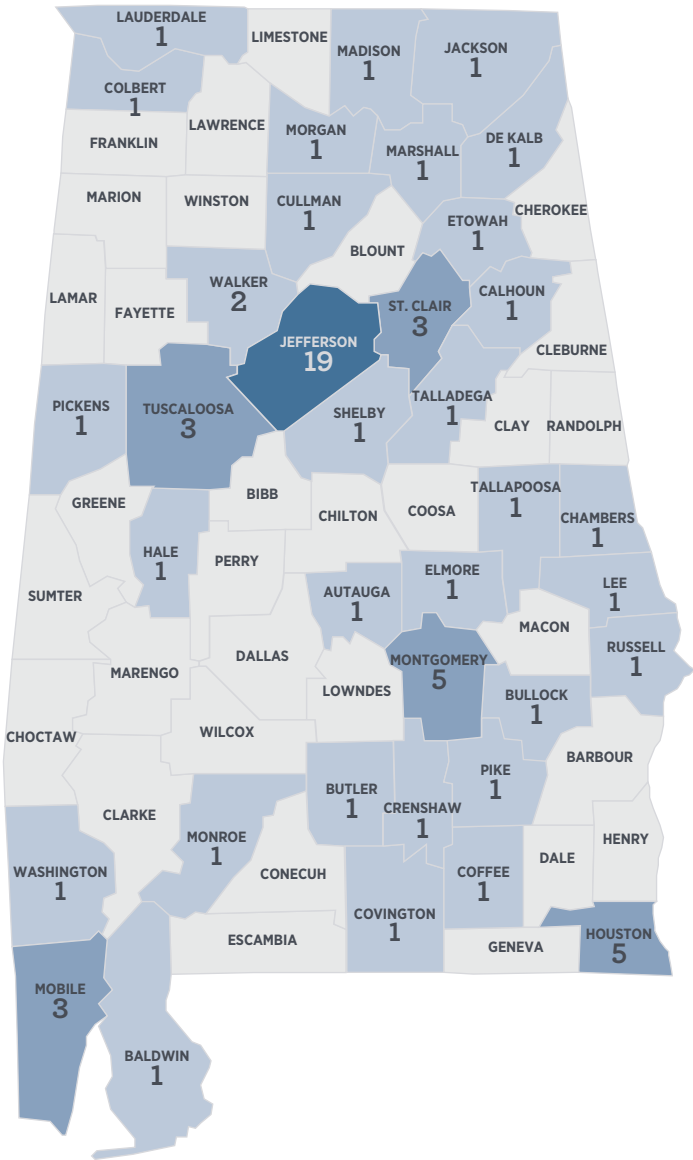
QUICK FACTS

INVESTIGATIONS IN 36 COUNTIES
PROSECUTIONS IN 5 COUNTIES



\$16,921,362 RECOVERED

INVESTIGATIONS BY COUNTY



CONSTITUTIONAL DEFENSE

The Constitutional Defense Section handles complex civil lawsuits filed against state agencies and officials in state and federal court, primarily involving constitutional challenges to Alabama statutes. One example is a federal lawsuit challenging the Legislature's authority to set a statewide, uniform minimum wage. In 2016, Section attorneys defended this and other lawsuits, including in such diverse areas as government ethics, voting rights and abortion.

PROHIBITING ELECTIONEERING WITH TAX DOLLARS

In 2010, the Alabama Legislature passed a law that prohibited the use of taxpayer dollars and public resources to collect dues for private groups engaging in political activities. In *Alabama Education Association v. Strange*, organizations that wanted the public to subsidize their campaign activities challenged that law. Section attorneys persuaded the courts this year to reject the last claim in that five-year challenge, thereby preserving an important component of Alabama's public integrity laws.

"For the second time in two days, the federal appeals court has upheld the constitutionality of Alabama's political corruption laws and delivered a significant victory for the people of Alabama in their ongoing fight against political corruption," Strange said. 'This law, in particular, will stop special interest groups from exploiting state resources to further their own, private political agendas.'" WSFA.com, September 28, 2016

www.ago.state.al.us/News-926

ABORTION

In *West Alabama Women's Health Center v. Strange*, State attorneys defended an Alabama statute that prohibits "dismemberment abortions," or those abortions that involve the dismemberment of a living fetus. In October, a federal court ruled against the State, imposing an injunction against the abortion law.

In the separate case of *Reproductive Health Services v. Strange*, State attorneys continue to defend a State "judicial bypass" law that revises procedures for minors seeking an abortion without a parent's permission. After two-plus years of litigation, opponents' motion for a preliminary injunction of the law has not been granted by the court and the revised procedures remain in effect.

UPHOLDING PAC-TO-PAC TRANSFER BAN

Also this year, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court ruling upholding a statute prohibiting transfers of funds among political action committees. This statute, defended by Section attorneys, supports the ability of the public to know who is funding political campaigns. In addition, Section attorneys are defending the requirement that those wishing to lobby in Alabama participate in ethics training.

"Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange praised the ruling. 'The PAC-to-PAC transfer ban has been instrumental in limiting campaign corruption while adding greater transparency to the elections process,' the statement reads. 'I am pleased the federal appeals court upheld the constitutionality of this important law.'" Montgomery Advertiser, September 28, 2016

www.ago.state.al.us/News-923

VOTING RIGHTS

Section attorneys successfully fought a challenge to Alabama's 2011 voter identification law when a federal court in February denied a preliminary injunction against the part of the law that allows a person without a valid photo ID to cast a ballot if he or she can be positively identified by two election officials. The Court noted that "the positively identify provision gives more voters, including minority voters, the opportunity to vote." The law was enforced for the 2016 elections; the lawsuit remains pending.

Attorney General Strange praised the Court's decision and noted that this means the state's Voter ID laws will be intact in upcoming elections. "Our voter ID law is an important measure that properly balances the right of citizens to vote with their right to have confidence in the integrity of our elections."

<http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-776>

MISSING PERSONS DAY

Over 150 Alabamians are missing. The missing are not just cases, they are the loved ones of hundreds of Alabama families. Missing persons cases can be solved when the public and law enforcement work more closely together to ensure that all evidence is collected and the information is reported.

In February, Montgomery County District Attorney Darryl Bailey and Attorney General Luther Strange co-hosted a day-long seminar at Auburn University at Montgomery for law enforcement and the families of missing persons. The second annual Missing Persons Day brought together over 100 law enforcement personnel from across the state, as well as families with missing loved ones. Law enforcement were briefed in best practices for conducting a missing persons case and how to use the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. Families were provided an opportunity to report a missing person, enter their information into the national database, and submit a family reference DNA sample. Auburn Montgomery Outreach and the Alabama Crime Prevention Clearinghouse and Training Institute partnered in the annual event.

"This event spotlights missing persons and empowers law enforcement and families with the means to locate them," said Attorney General Strange. "This year saw a 25 percent increase in participation from Alabama law enforcement."



Attorney General Strange and Montgomery County DA Darryl Bailey welcome law enforcement to the second annual Alabama Missing Persons Day training session at AUM on February 9, 2016.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Consumer Interests Division provides consumer education, processes consumer complaints, and mediates retail-based disputes between consumers and businesses. When mediation is unsuccessful or justice demands further action, the Section may initiate Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA) civil litigation seeking injunctive relief, civil penalties and monetary damages for affected consumers. DTPA prosecutions may be conducted independently within Alabama or in concert with consumer protection offices in other states. In cases of egregious consumer abuse, criminal charges may be brought to protect the rights of consumers.

CONSUMERS FILED 2,779 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS DURING 2016.* TOP FIVE:



Auto
(Used)



Utilities



Debt
Collection



Home
Repair



Retail
Purchases

*440 Out of State Complaints

KEY CONSUMER CASES IN 2016

VOLKSWAGEN EMISSION FRAUD SETTLEMENT In June, Attorney General Luther Strange announced Alabama's participation in related series of settlements with Volkswagen AG and its Audi and Porsche affiliates arising from Volkswagen's violations of state consumer protection laws and emissions standards. As part of the settlements, Alabama owners of certain 2.0 liter, 4-cylinder engine VW and Audi diesel cars purchased between 2009 and 2015 were entitled to be paid full, pre-scandal fair market value for their vehicle, in addition to a cash payment of at least \$5,100. Under the deal, affected car owners have the option to keep their vehicle and wait to see if VW and Audi develop acceptable emissions fixes. Car owners who exercise this option also receive a cash payment of at least \$5,100.

www.ago.alabama.gov/News-866

FUNDS RECOVERED

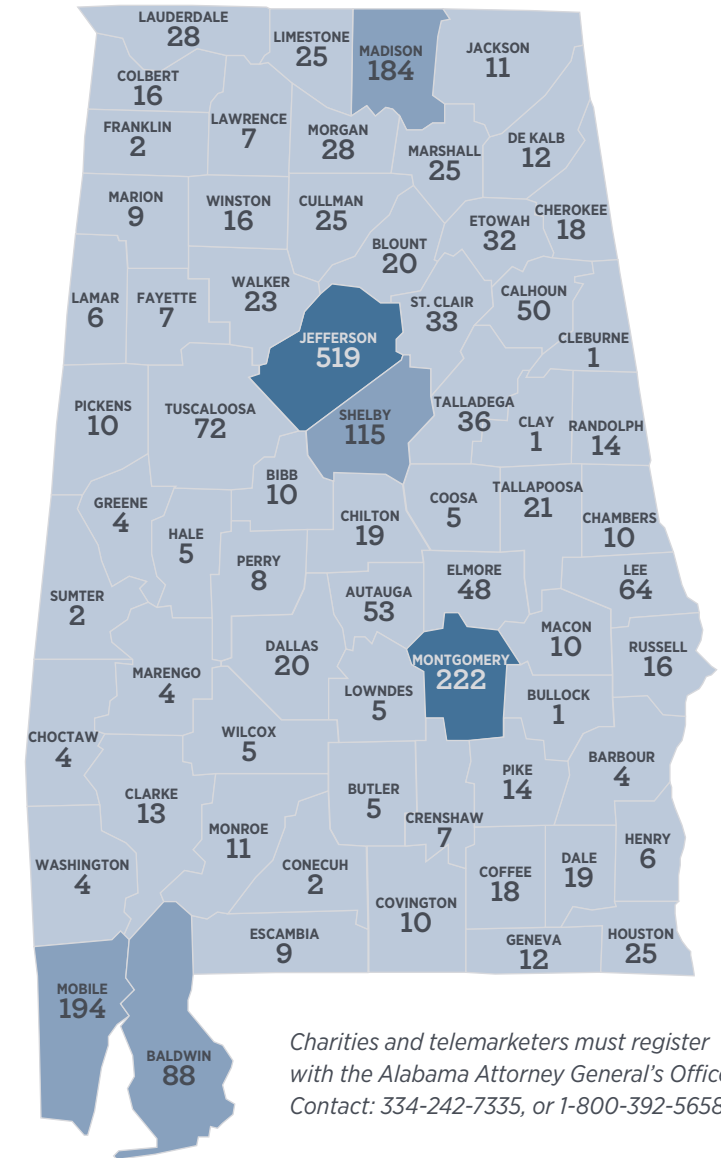
\$11,310,083 STATE OF ALABAMA

CONSUMER RELIEF \$691,043

SHAM CHARITIES AGREE TO \$75 MILLION NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENT In March, Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange, along with the Federal Trade Commission and agencies from all 50 states, obtained a permanent injunction to dissolve two nationwide sham cancer charities and to ban their president from profiting from any charity fundraising in the future. The settlement, filed in the U.S. District Court of Arizona, concludes the largest joint enforcement action ever undertaken by the FTC and state charity regulators. Cancer Fund of America Inc. (CFA), Cancer Support Services Inc. (CSS), and their leader, James Reynolds Sr., agreed to settle charges that CFA and CSS claimed to help cancer patients, but instead spent the overwhelming majority of donations on their operators, families and friends, and fundraisers. The order imposes a judgment against CFA, CSS, and Reynolds, jointly and severally, of \$75,825,653, the amount consumers donated to CFA and CSS between 2008 and 2012.

www.ago.alabama.gov/News-798

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS BY COUNTY





INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Division of the Attorney General’s Office investigates a variety of criminal matters, such as white-collar crime, including fraud, embezzlement and large scale theft, as well as “cold” cases involving unsolved homicides and rapes, and many other types of violent crimes. Many of these investigations are conducted independently, but some are handled in collaboration with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The Division also has a Special Agent assigned full-time at the local High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force.

INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

>>Special Agents of the Attorney General’s Office Investigations Division working with officials from the Ozark Police Department and the Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office apprehended two suspects in a multi-state debit card skimming scheme that crossed Alabama. Reiner Perez Rives and Eunises Llorca Meneses of Orlando were taken into custody on December 22 and charged with trafficking in stolen identities, identity theft and encoded data fraud. Additionally, the pair faces at least 32 pending charges throughout the State of Alabama. As this investigation continues to unfold, more charges are expected to be filed in other locations in Alabama and throughout the Southeast.



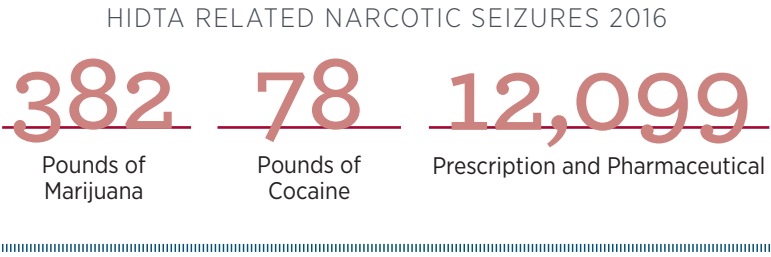
Attorney General Luther Strange joined Ozark Police Chief Marlos Walker, Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office Officials and agents with the AG’s Office in announcing the arrest of two suspects in a debit card skimming ring that stretched across five states including Alabama. Agents seized \$6,500 in cash and more than 300 debit cards.
<http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-963>

>> A cold case investigation by the Alabama Attorney General’s Office resulted in the arrest and conviction of a former Calhoun County resident for multiple sex crimes against young girls in the county during the period 1999 to 2004. Billy Wayne Cooper pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree rape, for which he was sentenced to 30 years; one count of second-degree rape, for which he was sentenced to 10 years; and one count of second-degree rape, for which he was sentenced to 20 years.
<http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-891>

>> Special Agents of the Attorney General’s Investigations Division and Assistant Attorneys General of the Criminal Trials Division, working with the Lauderdale County District Attorney and Sheriff’s offices, the Florence Police Department, the Lauderdale, Lawrence and Colbert County drug task forces and the Federal Bureau of Investigations, presented evidence resulting in charges against two Florence men on May 26. On July 14, additional counts were secured in the case. Charges are pending against Attorney Edward Ray Dillard for one count of human trafficking in the first degree, seven counts of human trafficking in the second degree, four counts of conspiracy to commit human trafficking in the second degree, one count of sexual abuse in the second degree, two counts of making terroristic threats, one count of intimidating a witness, one count of bribing a witness, two counts of destruction of evidence in an Attorney General’s investigation, and two counts of tampering with physical evidence. Timothy Wylie Staggs faces related charges of two counts of human trafficking in the first degree, six counts of human trafficking in the second degree, and four counts of conspiracy to commit human trafficking in the second degree.
<http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-843>
<http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-880>

QUICK FACTS

IMPACT ON ALABAMA: ALL 67 COUNTIES



ATTORNEY GENERAL REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

During 2016, Attorney General Luther Strange, in conjunction with a coalition of Alabama sheriffs, police chiefs and district attorneys, held a series of training sessions across the state to bring local law enforcement up to date on the latest practices in investigating and solving crimes.

The law enforcement training, led by the Attorney General’s Office Investigations Division, centered on violent crime investigations, and covered the investigation process from start to finish. Local law enforcement learned the latest procedures to secure a crime scene and collect evidence, including digital evidence. The course also focused on search and seizure laws and the writing of search warrants for electronic data. Law enforcement also learned best practices in keeping and maintaining evidence for cold case investigations.

Nearly 280 police officers and sheriff’s deputies from around the state have benefitted from the regional training sessions conducted in Columbiana, Dothan, Florence, Montgomery, Stapleton and Talladega. Additional participants include the ALEA SBI agents, the U.S. Department of Defense security personnel, military police and the FBI.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-865

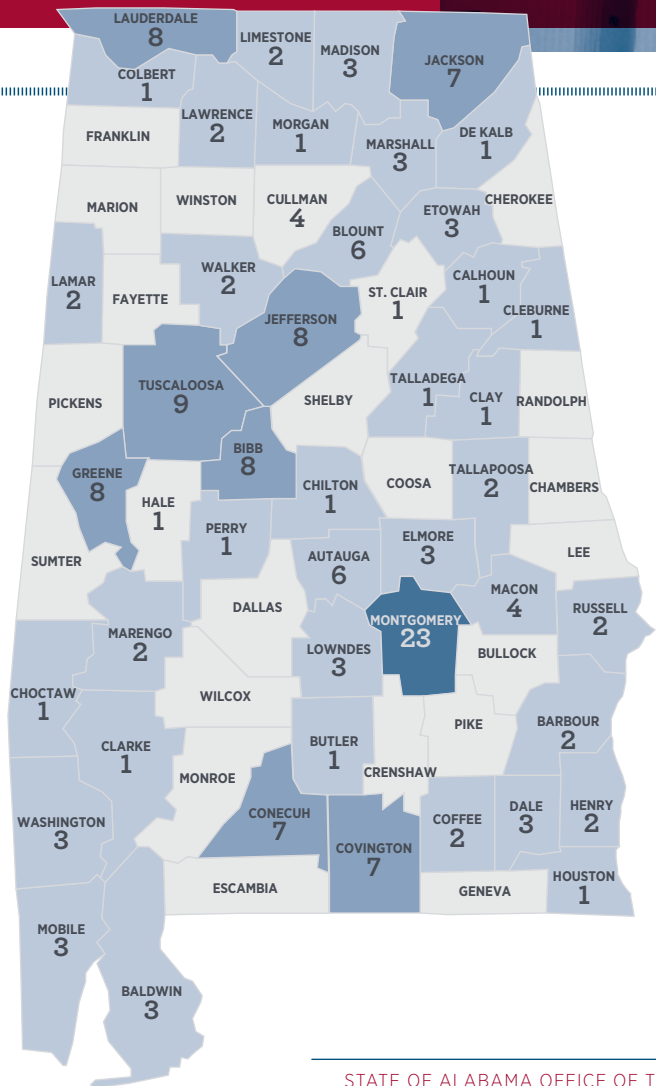
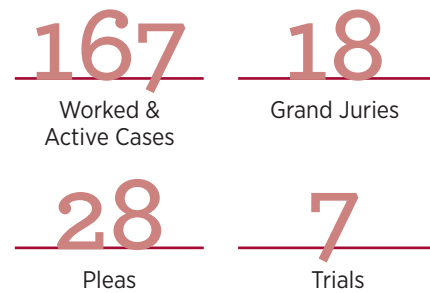
CRIMINAL TRIALS

The Criminal Trials Division in the Office of the Attorney General prosecutes cases in courts throughout the State of Alabama. Most of the cases are violent crimes, but the Division also prosecutes thefts from private businesses and other white collar crimes. Generally, the Division prosecutes crimes when district attorneys or law enforcement request assistance, have conflicts, or do not have the resources to prosecute complex cases. The Criminal Trials Division is also responsible for prosecuting illegal gambling and pursuing gambling forfeiture actions.

CASES BY COUNTY

QUICK FACTS

IMPACT ON ALABAMA:
47 COUNTIES



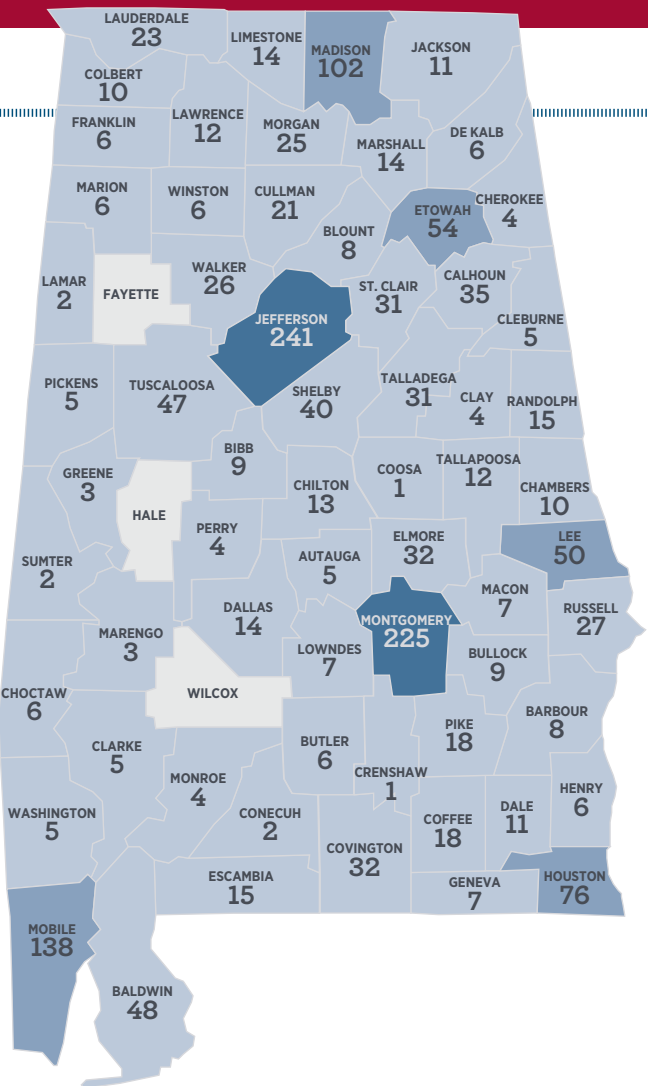
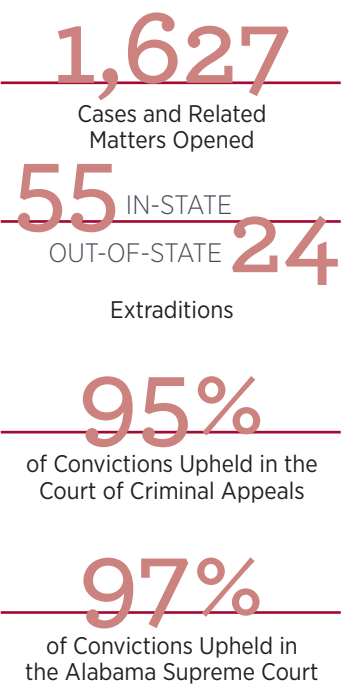
CRIMINAL APPEALS

In short, the Criminal Appeals Section is the district attorney’s “backstop.” It is the largest section within the Attorney General’s Office and represents the State in all non-death penalty criminal appellate proceedings, typically handling between 1,500 to 1,800 new cases each year. Lawyers in this Section work closely with trial judges, district attorneys, and law enforcement officers to ensure that criminal convictions are upheld. Lawyers also recommend legislation to the Attorney General that will strengthen Alabama’s criminal statutes.

CASES BY COUNTY

QUICK FACTS

IMPACT ON ALABAMA:
ALL 67 COUNTIES



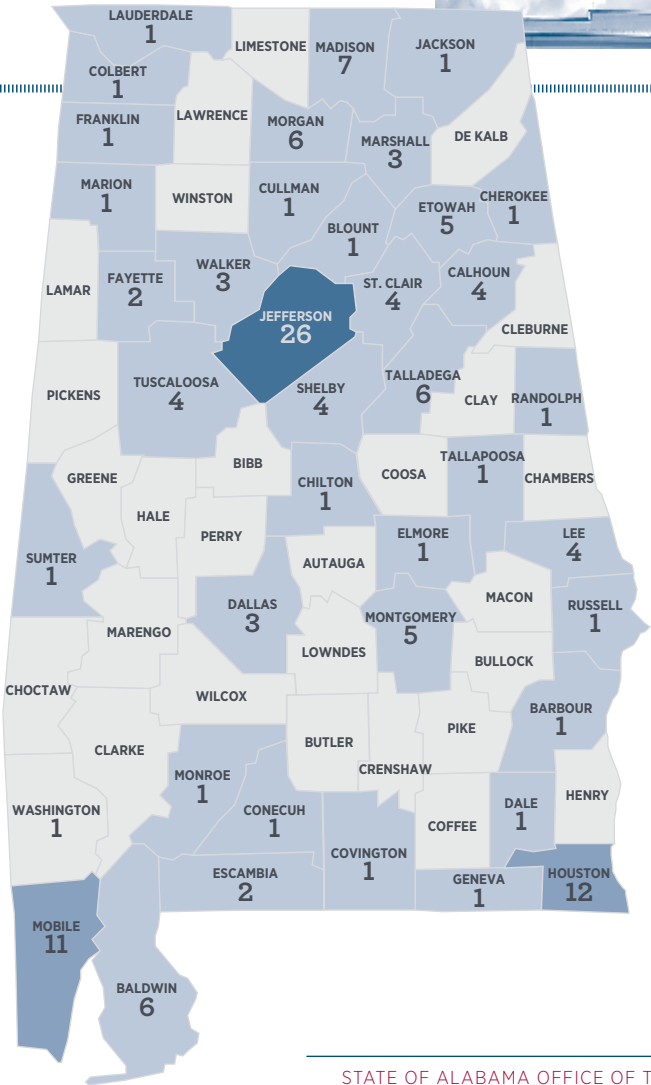
CAPITAL LITIGATION

The Capital Litigation Section represents the State in all appeals in state and federal courts in which a criminal defendant convicted of capital murder has received a death sentence, including the direct appeal, state post-conviction proceedings or Rule 32 stage, and federal habeas corpus proceedings. During 2016, this Section handled the following:

ACTIVE APPEALS CASES BY COUNTY

QUICK FACTS IMPACT ON ALABAMA: 40 COUNTIES

- 2 Executions
- 5 Death Penalty Appeals Filed
- 79 Extraditions
- 187 Defendants on Death Row
- 138 Cases Worked or Presented in Court



CRIME VICTIMS

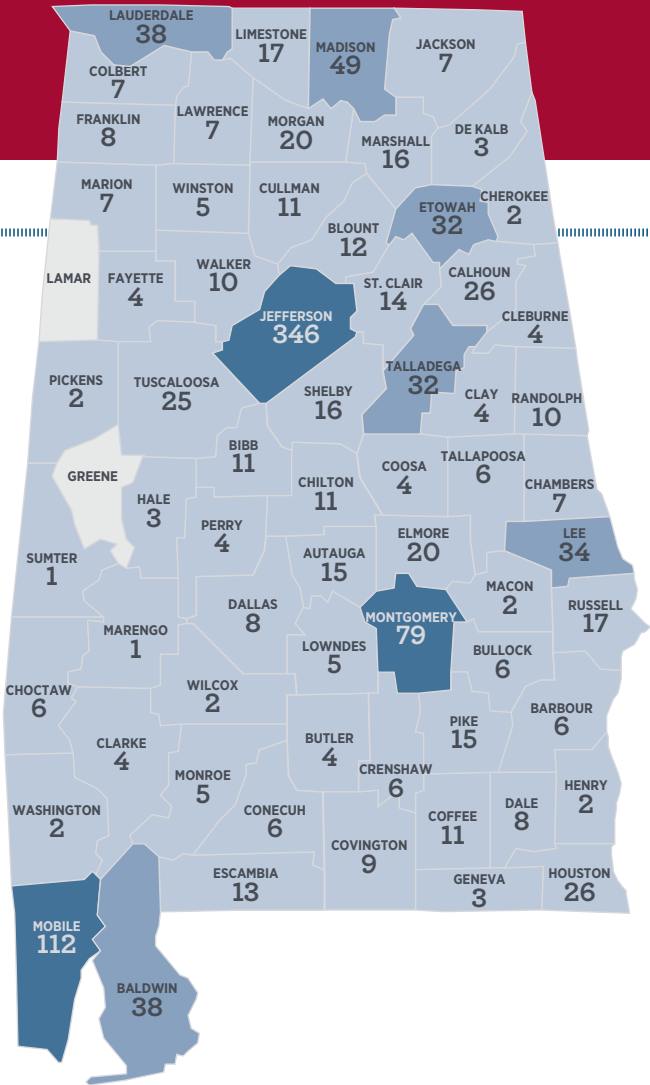
The Attorney General’s Office of Victim Assistance (AGOVA) assists victims of violent crime, providing victims and their families a place to turn before, during and after their offender’s sentencing. Our goal is to help victims understand the judicial process, advocate on their behalf and maintain contact so they can remain informed about the case that has impacted their lives. AGOVA delivers direct victim assistance and referrals for victims through our toll-free hotline, 1-800-626-7676. Additional information can be found on the Attorney General’s Office website at

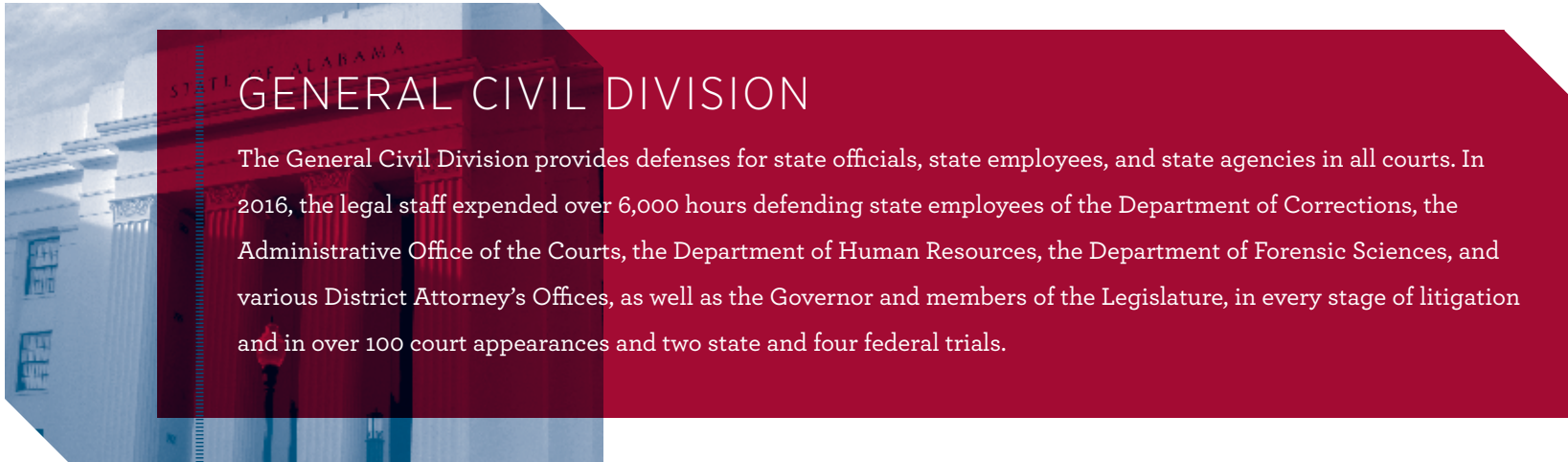
www.ago.alabama.gov/
Page-Victims-Assistance or via
www.victims.alabama.gov.

CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTED BY COUNTY

QUICK FACTS IMPACT ON ALABAMA: 65 COUNTIES

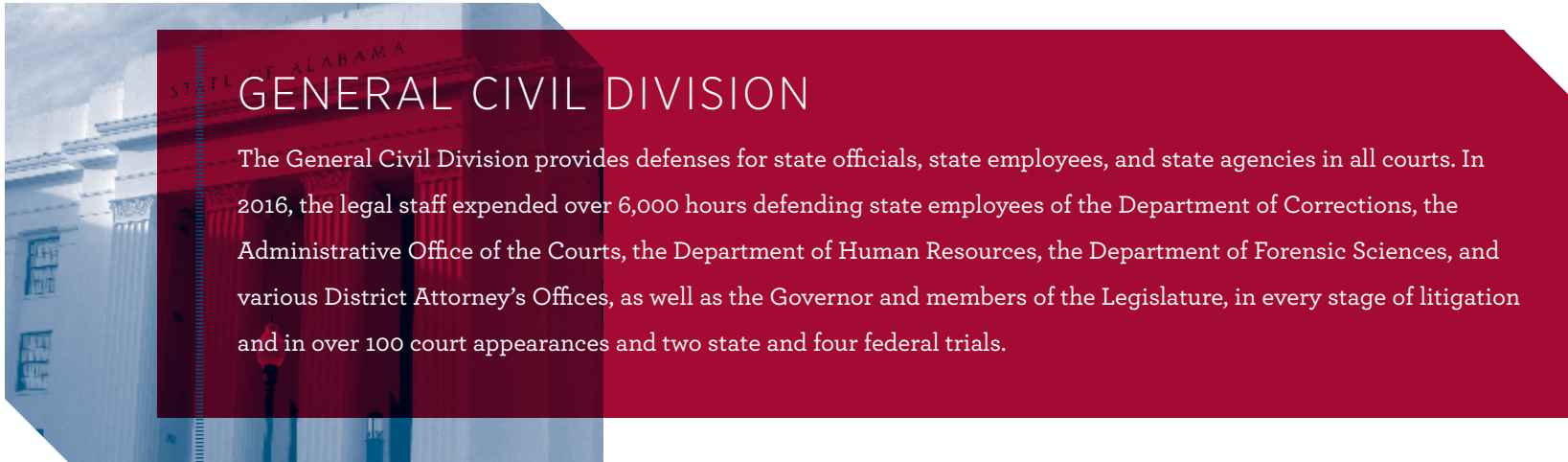
- 1,221 Phone Calls & Emails Received from Hotline
- 749 Victims Assisted at Board of Pardons and Paroles Hearings
- 1,468 Appeals Screened



A photograph of the Alabama State Capitol building, featuring its iconic columns and the words "STATE OF ALABAMA" on the facade. The image is partially covered by a red overlay that contains white text. The text describes the General Civil Division's role in providing legal defenses for state officials, employees, and agencies, and mentions the division's workload in 2016, including defending various state entities and the Governor in court.

GENERAL CIVIL DIVISION

The General Civil Division provides defenses for state officials, state employees, and state agencies in all courts. In 2016, the legal staff expended over 6,000 hours defending state employees of the Department of Corrections, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Forensic Sciences, and various District Attorney's Offices, as well as the Governor and members of the Legislature, in every stage of litigation and in over 100 court appearances and two state and four federal trials.

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Attorneys in the Civil Division serve as “general counsel” for 46 regulatory boards and commissions, and provide counsel to many more. Each quarter, attorneys attend on average 40 board meetings and prosecute approximately 90 disciplinary actions.

The Division's attorneys participate in the National Association of Attorneys General multistate antitrust investigations, review all complaints challenging the constitutionality of statutes or having impact on beneficiaries of charitable trusts, and provide initial review and recommendations to the Chief Deputy for dispositions of proposals to file,

defend or settle cases involving any state party. The General Civil Division provides an Administrative Law Judge to hear appeals from the State Employee Injury Commission Trust Fund and Students First.

The Division reviews all claims presented to the Alabama Board of Adjustment for death benefits or disability benefits for peace officers and firefighters who are either killed or disabled in the line of duty or due to an occupational disease. The Division also participates in the review of proposed Attorney General Opinions to be issued by the Attorney General.

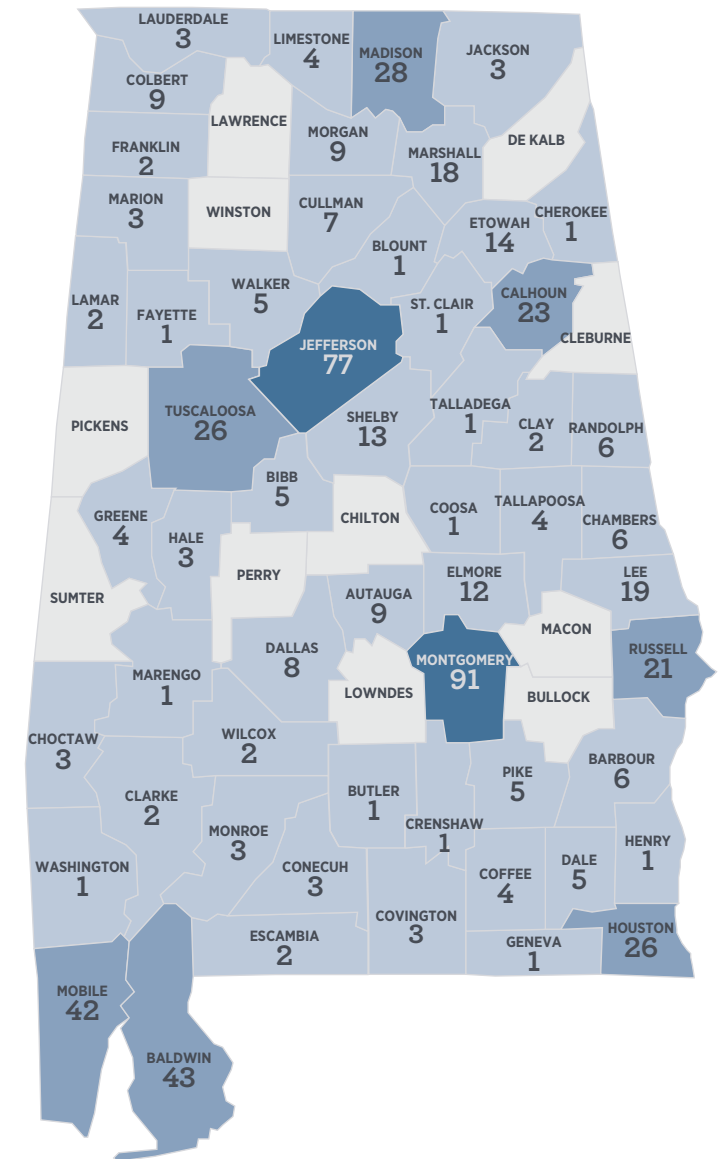
BOARDS & AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers
- Athletic Commission (Boxing)
- Architects
- Archives and History
- Armory Commission
- Assisted Living Administrators
- Board of Accountancy
- Board of Cosmetology
- Board of Dental Examiners
- Board of Examiners in Counseling
- Board of General Contractors, Licensing
- Board for Licensure for Professional Geologists
- Commission of Higher Education
- Contract Review Committee
- Court Reporters' Board
- Dental Scholarship Board

Department of Early Childhood Education
Educational Television
Electronic Security Licensure
Engineers and Land Surveyors
Examiners of Public Accounts
Governor's Mansion Authority
Hearing Instrument Dealers Board
Heating and Air Conditioning
Historic Iron Works Commission
Homeland Security
Interior Design Board
Library Services
Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board
Marriage & Family Therapy
Massage Therapy Board
Military Department

Nursing Home Administrators Board
Occupational Therapy Board
Optometric Scholarship Awards
Peace Officers Benefit & Annuity Fund
Peace Officers Standards and Training
Physical Therapy Board
Private Investigations Board
Records Commission
Red Mountain Parkway Commission
Registrars
Respiratory Therapy
Sickle Cell Commission
Social Worker Examiners
Tourism and Travel

CASES BY COUNTY



OPINIONS

The Attorney General’s Office Opinions Section provides written opinions on questions of law upon receipt of a written request from state departments, agencies, boards and commissions, as well as authorized local public officials and local governmental entities. The Opinions Section also furnishes opinions to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of either legislative house whenever a matter is under consideration by the committee. A searchable database of all opinions issued from 1979 to the present is available to the public at

www.ago.state.al.us/Opinions.aspx.

ENFORCING ALABAMA’S LAWS AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING

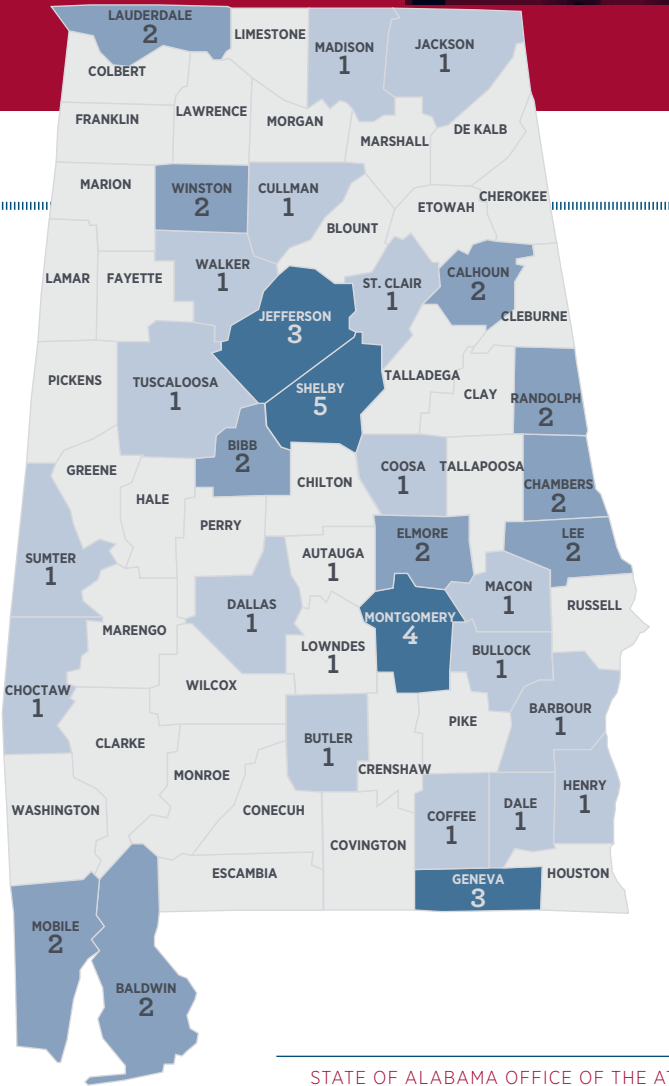
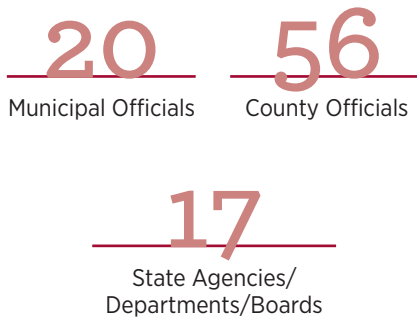
During 2016, the Attorney General’s Office continued ongoing legal efforts to uniformly enforce Alabama’s laws against illegal gambling and afford casino operators their day in court. The Alabama Supreme Court rendered two major decisions siding with the State against VictoryLand and Greenetrack casinos. The Court ruled in both cases that electronic bingo is illegal in the State of Alabama and that the State could destroy machines seized at the casinos.

OPINIONS ISSUED

BY COUNTY

QUICK FACTS

93 OPINIONS WERE ISSUED TO:



VICTORYLAND RULING

“Today’s decision is the latest, and hopefully the last, chapter in the more than six years’ worth of attempts to defy the Alabama Constitution’s ban on ‘lotteries.’ It is the latest, and hopefully the last, chapter in the ongoing saga of attempts to defy the clear and repeated holdings of this Court beginning in 2009 that electronic machines like those at issue here are not the ‘bingo’ referenced in local bingo amendments. It is the latest, and hopefully the last, chapter in the failure of some local law-enforcement officials in this State to enforce the anti-gambling laws of this State they are sworn to uphold, thereby necessitating the exercise and performance by the attorney general of the authority and duty vested in him by law, as the chief law-enforcement officer of this State, to enforce the criminal laws of this State. And finally, it is the latest, and hopefully last, instance in which it is necessary to expend public funds to seek appellate review of the meaning of a simple term—‘bingo’—which, as reviewed above, has been declared over and over and over again by this Court. There is no longer any room for uncertainty, nor justification for continuing dispute, as to the meaning of that term. And certainly the need for any further expenditure of judicial resources, including the resources of this Court, to examine this issue is at an end. All that is left is for the law of this State to be enforced.”- Alabama Supreme Court, March 31, 2016

www.ago.alabama.gov/News-806

FRONTIER BINGO, GREENE COUNTY

On August 15, a Greene County Circuit Court ruled in favor of the State in an electronic bingo forfeiture case involving Frontier Bingo of Knoxville, Alabama. The court granted the State’s petition for forfeiture and condemnation of \$191,249.11 and illegal gambling machines seized from Frontier Bingo in 2014. The court ordered the seized gambling funds to be transferred to the General Fund and the machines destroyed. Frontier Bingo has appealed the ruling to the Alabama Supreme Court.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-898

GREENETRACK RULING

“There is no longer any room for uncertainty, nor justification for continuing dispute, as to the meaning of [the term ‘bingo’]. And certainly the need for any further expenditure of judicial resources, including the resources of this Court, to examine this issue is at an end. All that is left is for the law of this State to be enforced.”- Alabama Supreme Court, December 23, 2016

<http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-964>

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S 17TH ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMIT

Attorney General Luther Strange led the 17th Annual Attorney General's Law Enforcement Summit October 18 in Montgomery. Nearly 700 law enforcement officers from throughout Alabama attended the all-day event to learn how to effectively manage challenges facing law enforcement in the performance of their duties.



This year's Summit focused on how law enforcement could better respond to people with special needs, as well as best practices for response to officer-involved shootings. Sheriffs and police chiefs were also advised on the benefits of minority officer recruiting to both their police force and the community.

Attorney General Strange noted, "I can't think of a tougher job across our country than serving on the front lines as a law enforcement officer. Too often people are quick to judge the professionalism and integrity of our dedicated public servants. My law enforcement summit is a way for me and my staff to give back to these brave men and women, to give them an opportunity to know that they are appreciated and respected."

A somber highlight of the day came with the commemoration of fallen Alabama law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty during the past year.

www.ago.alabama.gov/News-935



Mobile. In addition to serving as a corrections officer for the State of Alabama for a number of years, Officer Bettis was a veteran who served a tour of duty in Iraq with the Alabama National Guard. He received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service Star. Officer Bettis was known among his colleagues as a firm and fair corrections officer, and was highly respected for his work ethic and dedicated service to his profession. He was a husband and father of three children.



and paid his own way through police academy. He handled the department's technology initiatives, served as a grant writer, and registered sex offenders. Sergeant Seamon was known throughout the agency for his sense of humor and his quick wit. He leaves behind his parents and sister.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER KENNETH BETTIS of the Alabama Department of Corrections died on September 16, 2016. He was stabbed by an inmate on September 1 and succumbed to his injuries a little over two weeks later at the USA Medical Center in

DEPUTY SHERIFF TROY SEAMON of the Autauga County Sheriff's Office died on April 4, 2016. He suffered an apparent heart attack while on duty. He had served with the Autauga County Sheriff's Office for nearly 18 years. Sergeant Seamon started as a reserve deputy



Alabama's new statewide Law Enforcement Memorial was dedicated in Anniston's Centennial Park in May. The granite monument bears the name of all Alabama law enforcement who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

On October 5, 2016, Attorney General Strange participated in a service honoring Alabama Corrections Officer Kenneth Bettis who lost his life in the line of duty on September 16, 2016. The special ceremony at the new Alabama Law Enforcement Memorial was also attended by Governor Bentley, Department of Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn and other officials. Officer Bettis joined over 500 fallen Alabama law enforcement memorialized on the monument for their sacrifice.

SAFE SCHOOL AWARDS

In April, Attorney General Luther Strange announced the winners of the Alabama Safe Schools Awards of Excellence. These annual awards challenge schools to develop technological solutions to address school safety. Schools from all eight Alabama public school districts and three private school regions are judged on their implementation of recommended “Best Practices.”

“The safety of our children at schools continues to be a paramount concern and we must work together to ensure that Alabama schools take the best possible protective measures,” said Attorney General Strange. “Each year, we learn from the successes of those who are recognized for excellence. We commend these outstanding schools, and look forward to implementing best practices to keep all Alabama schoolchildren safe from harm.”

www.ago.state.al.us/News-816



Attorney General Strange presents an Attorney General Safe School Award to Helena Middle School Assistant Principal Jennifer Cofer and School Resource Officer Ken Lowery during a school assembly in April.



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

(Note: No entries were received from District 4)

DISTRICT 1

Orange Beach Elementary, Orange Beach

DISTRICT 2

Opelika High School, Opelika

DISTRICT 3

Helena Middle School, Helena

DISTRICT 5

Monroe County High School, Monroeville

DISTRICT 6

Oak Park Middle School, Decatur

DISTRICT 7

Hewitt-Trussville High School, Trussville

DISTRICT 8

Cedar Hill Elementary School, Ardmore

PRIVATE SCHOOL

Northern Region, Riverhill School, Florence

PRIVATE SCHOOL

Central Region, Coosa Valley Academy, Harpersville

PRIVATE SCHOOL

Southern Region, Lakeside School, Eufaula



STATE OF ALABAMA

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Constitutional Defense	334-242-7432
Consumer Protection	334-242-7335 / 1-800-392-5658
Criminal Appeals	334-242-7386
Criminal Trials	334-353-8494
Executive	334-242-7401
General Civil	334-242-7555
Investigations	334-242-7345
Medicaid Fraud	334-353-8793
Opinions	334-242-7403
Solicitor General	334-353-1472
Special Prosecutions	334-353-2128
Victim Assistance	334-242-7342 / 1-800-626-7676



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